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From the Dean



Alberto J. Mora presents the 2023 D'Alemberte & Palmer Lecture in International Human Rights.

Last week's inaugural D'Alemberte & Palmer Lecture in International Human Rights was a wonderful event, and it was a pleasure to see so many alumni and friends at the law school. Lecturer Alberto J. Mora, the former general counsel of the U.S. Navy, presented "Reflections on the Rule of Law in Human Rights" to a standing-room-only audience. Mora discussed the legal and policy ramifications of Russia's invasion of Ukraine, which he said "represents a watershed moment for international law and for the international rule of law." He also talked about "the need for the United States to reexamine its policy of isolation from international law, and specifically from the international criminal court." Mora's lecture was thought-provoking and timely, and it connected so many concepts brilliantly in defense of bolstering human rights through ensuring that the rule of law is strong at the national and international levels. If you were unable to join us for the event virtually or in person, you can [watch a recording of the lecture](#) online. Many thanks to alumna Patsy Palmer ('07) for her generous gift to establish this lecture series and for her assistance in making it a huge success!

During the event, we also recognized our first recipients of the Ellis Medal, 3L Sophia Muina and 3L Jacob Shapiro, and our first D'Alemberte-Ellis Fellow, 2L Robin Rodriguez. All three students have demonstrated a deep commitment to work in the area of international human rights.

Erin O'Connor
Dean Erin O'Connor

Admitted Students Visit FSU Law



Professor Kahn teaches a mock class during Admitted Student Preview Day.

More than 100 admitted students visited FSU Law last week for our annual Admitted Student Preview Day events. These accomplished students were joined on campus by approximately 80 guests. This year's Preview Day included a reception with current students representing the many student organizations that enrich the FSU Law community, remarks by Dean Erin O'Connor, a mock class taught by Harry M. Walborsky Professor and Associate Dean for Business Law Programs Jeffrey Kahn, a student panel, tours of the law school, lunch featuring food from some of Tallahassee's most popular restaurants, a faculty panel, and sessions on the law school's robust offerings in the areas of career services and academic support. In addition to the programming for admitted students, the agenda included special sessions on supporting law students for the guests of admits. Many current students, faculty members, and staff members made Preview Day a success, and FSU Law looks forward to welcoming back admitted students as new 1Ls this fall.

Alum Amanda Sampaio Bova ('06)

Amanda Sampaio Bova was elected as a county court judge for Florida's Ninth Judicial Circuit in August 2022 and began her service on the bench in January 2023. She is currently assigned to hear civil cases in Orange County. Bova is board certified by The Florida Bar in criminal trial law and previously served as a senior attorney at the Florida Department of Business and Professional Regulation before becoming a judge. Bova also previously served as director of the State Attorney's Conviction Integrity Unit, ran her own law firm where she practiced in the areas of criminal and family law, and was an assistant public defender.



She is active in many professional organizations, including the Central Florida Association for Women Lawyers, where she served on the board from 2019-2022; the Central Florida Association of Criminal Defense Attorneys, where she served as president for 2017-2018; the Florida Association of Criminal Defense Attorneys, where she was a chapter representative for 2017-2018; and a Ninth Circuit Florida Bar Grievance Committee, which she chaired in 2019-2020.

"I really enjoyed my time at FSU College of Law, and I really feel my law school education is what laid the foundation for my entry onto the bench. Still to this day I remember the lessons learned at FSU Law. I especially remember my evidence course with Professor Charles Ehrhardt at 8 am. With evidence being such an important subject, I feel so fortunate to have been able to learn evidence from the best. His classes were always stimulating, engaging, and informative. I also attribute much of my success in the courtroom to a trial practice class I took during my 3L year.

It taught me the basics of trial advocacy, but more importantly, it is where I discovered my passion for the courtroom. Not only did FSU Law deliver a top-notch legal education, I also developed close relationships and friendships there that have become even stronger over the years. I am very thankful for these relationships, which provided both personal and professional support."

Student Profile: 3L Marshawn Young

Desired Practice Location: Miami, Tampa, Fort Lauderdale, or Orlando; also open to New York, Jamaica, or Long Island

Expected Graduation: May 2023

Field of Law Sought: Immigration law and compliance

Marshawn Young is originally from Mandeville, Jamaica, but considers Tallahassee his hometown. After receiving his bachelor's degree in psychology in 2015 and his LL.B. degree in 2017 from The University of the West Indies, Mona, Young received an LL.M. in business law from FSU Law in 2020. Young will earn his J.D. degree this May and will also earn his Ph.D. in conflict analysis and resolution from Nova Southeastern University this summer. While completing these degrees, Young has worked at the Florida Department of Business and Professional Regulation as a law clerk since May 2022. There, he drafts motions and closing orders related to construction cases, observes hearings, reviews cases with supervising attorneys, and researches case law. From September 2022 to April 2023, Young participated in FSU Law's Farmworker & Immigration Rights Clinic, where he conducted intakes, prepared applications for filing, conducted legal research, and prepared motions for court proceedings. Young worked at the Florida Department of Economic Opportunity from February to November of 2022. In this position, he analyzed statutes and regulations, reviewed applications for unemployment benefits to ensure compliance with regulations, and was responsible for accurately entering data.



During his time at FSU Law, Young was a member of the International Law Students Association. He would like for potential employers to know that he has successfully argued two pro se writ of mandamus cases at U.S. district courts in Florida and New York. If you are interested in connecting with or hiring Young after graduation, visit his [LinkedIn page](#) or email him at may18o@fsu.edu.

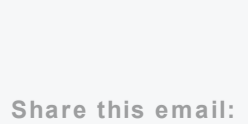
"When you are confident, people become confident in you."

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